

Y5 Priority Therapy

Y5 R3b Identify explicit details from the text, showing exactly where in the text they found the information

Test 3

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Superhuman – Deep divers who can hold their breath for up to 13 minutes

Scientists have revealed how the extraordinary Bajau people can hold their breath underwater for so much longer than other people.

One of their organs – the spleen – is unusually large. The Bajau are also known as Sea Nomads, and spend hours every day fishing underwater with traditional spears. They regularly hold their breath for five minutes and dive to depths of more than 70 m (230 ft). One man told researcher Melissa Ilardo that he once managed to spend 13 minutes underwater without coming up for air.

Ilardo says she was surprised to find that the Bajau have much larger spleens than other people. This organ holds a store of oxygen-rich blood. Some seals that swim to great depths have been known to have large spleens, too.

However, since non-diving Bajau people also had enlarged spleens, Ilardo knew that it couldn't just be something that happens when people dive repeatedly and their body gets used to it. Her report in *Cell* suggests that the Bajau people evolved their bigger spleens over generations.

By Ian Eddy for 'First News'

1. How long did one man manage to hold his breath underwater for?

2. What does the spleen contain a store of?

3. Find and copy one word which tells us that the spleens of the Bajau people have changed over time.

4. How do we know that the Bajau people are unlike other people?

5. How do we know that people do not simply develop bigger spleens as a result of diving repeatedly?

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Qu.	Answer
1	13 minutes
2	oxygen-rich blood
3	evolved
4	The text says that they are extraordinary.
5	Because non-diving Bajau people also have enlarged spleens.

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